

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 13, 2006 LB 872

country. So we pay the price for a dirty environment in a whole different hemisphere. And you know, it's just something that we deal with, something we try to get a handle on. It's a natural element, but too much of mercury is not good; we all know that. And the people that emit mercury, we are trying to get a handle on that, the federal government is. And when we have the federal program that comes down, we try to work with the federal government through our Department of Environmental Quality. And so that's what we're up against, and that's what we're dealing with. Senator Chambers, you may have the rest of my time, if you want.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Schrock. Stay on your feet. I would like to continue our exchange. Senator Schrock, you mentioned what might be happening in terms of what you described as a dirty environment in Asia. What percentage of the pollution that exists in America right now--let's limit it to mercury--is caused by mercury pollution coming to this hemisphere from Asia? What percentage of that mercury pollution?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator, I do not know, but we are asking the people behind the glass. I think it's a fairly decent percentage, but I just don't know what it would be in a percent.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schrock, there are plants in America that are releasing mercury into rivers and streams. Fish are ingesting it, shellfish and other critters, I imagine. Am I to understand you to say that if we didn't have the pollution that people behind the glass told you is being caused by a dirty environment in Asia, we wouldn't be bothered with the contamination by mercury of this seafood, I'll call it? Is that what they behind the glass told you?

SENATOR SCHROCK: They have not said, behind the glass, because it's kind of an elusive number. Nobody knows for sure. We know it's a global issue, and we know that even if we didn't have